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MINORITY MEDIA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

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March 3, 2002

Hon. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Ms. Dortch:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: MM Docket No. 03-15 (Digital Television)

Pursuant to 47 CFR §1.1206, this will disclose that in connection with this permit-but-disclose proceeding, on behalf of MMTC I held a meeting February 28, 2003 at 1:30 PM with Commissioner Copps and his Legal Advisor, Alexis Johns.

At the meeting, I presented the germ of a concept to ease the costs to low-income families when analog service is turned off. Many broadcasters will need, or seek, additional time to roll out their service to cover an entire market. Rather than imposing forfeitures or onerous short-term deadlines, the Commission could grant extensions to these broadcasters contingent upon their payment into a fund that would provide equipment vouchers for low-income families (— those receiving food stamps, or whose children receive free school lunches). The vouchers could be used to purchase DTV-ready sets or converter boxes. The payments would be less than the value to a broadcaster of the additional roll-out time, but sufficient in value to subsidize a considerable number of vouchers. Making low income families early DTV adopters would reduce the time it would take to secure 85% DTV adoption in a market. Thus, broadcasters would realize cost savings, low income families most dependent on over-the-air television would not have to choose between financial hardship or the absence of television, and the DTV conversion process would be speeded up.

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An original and two copies of this letter are being filed with the Secretary.

Sincerely,

/s/

David Honig
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Michael Copps
Alexis Johns, Esq.
Wanda Hardy (with floppy disk)
Qualex International (with floppy disk)

/dh